ROBERT KIRKMAN CHARLIE ADLARD DAVE McCAIG

THE WALKING DEAD™

DELUXE

image

32 FEB

·FINCH·

ESCRITOR

ROBERT KIRKMAN

DIBUJANTE

CHARLIE ADLARD

COLORISTA *ROTULISTA*

DAVE McCAIG **RUS WOOTON**

PORTADAS

DAVID FINCH + DAVE McCAIG
CHARLIE ADLARD + DAVE McCAIG
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LOGOTIPO • DISEÑO • PRODUCCIÓN

ANDRES JUAREZ

CREADOR DE THE WALKING DEAD

ROBERT KIRKMAN

ANTERIORMENTE:

Después de perder a uno de sus luchadores habituales, el Gobernador le ofreció a Michonne a un trato: entrar en la arena a cambio de dejar de sufrir su tortura temporalmente. En lugar de participar en una pelea limpia y amañada, Michonne mató a su oponente en el ring y a todos los zombis que los rodeaban. Mientras tanto, Martínez se reencontró con Rick y, al ver con sus propios ojos los efectos de la diplomacia del Gobernador, decidió ayudarle a escapar.

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¡SUÉLTAME, MALDITA SEA!

VALE.

VALE.

ES QUE TENEMOS QUE *DARNOS PRISA.* NO SERÁ FÁCIL SACARTE DE AQUÍ SIN QUE NADIE *SE DÉ CUENTA.*

NO PUEDO ROBAR UN COCHE--SOLO TENEMOS UN PAR CON EL DEPÓSITO LLENO Y ES DEMASIADO DIFÍCIL LLEGAR A ELLOS SIN QUE NOS VEAN.

SI SE DAN CUENTAN DE QUE TE HAS IDO ANTES DE QUE ESTEMOS LEJOS, NOS PODRÁN ALCANZAR. TENEMOS QUE LARGARNOS DE AQUÍ SIN QUE NADIE LO SEPA DURANTE MUCHO TIEMPO.

VAMOS-- EN *MARCHA.*

PERO *ESPERA*-- ME HAN DICHO QUE HAY GUARDIAS APOSTADOS EN LA PUERTA.

¿CÓMO VAMOS A *BURLAR-LOS?*

YA NOS HEMOS ENCARGADO DE ELLOS.

"¿HE-MOS?"

CREO QUE YA *CONOCES* A MI SOCIO.

¡GLENN!

RICK-- ¡*ESTÁS* VIVO!

CREÍA HABÍAS *MUERTO*, TÍO. MARTÍNEZ ME DIJO QUE TE HABÍA VISTO, PERO YO QUÉ SÉ--NO ME LO CREÍA HASTA AHORA.

¿Y TÚ? ME DIJERON QUE HABÍAN DEJADO QUE TE *FUERAS*--QUE LES DIJISTE TODO SOBRE LA PRISIÓN, QUE IBAN A SEGUIRTE HASTA ALLÍ.

TÍO--NO ME *HICIERON* NI UNA SOLA *PREGUNTA*. ME PASÉ UN DÍA ENCERRADO EN UN GARAJE AL LADO DE OTRO EN EL QUE TENÍAN A MICHONNE.

QUIERO A MAGGIE Y NO QUIERO PONER A NADIE EN PELIGRO--PERO LAS COSAS QUE ESCUCHÉ--LAS COSAS QUE LE HICIERON--CREO QUE PODRÍA HABERLES DICHO *CUALQUIER COSA* PARA QUE PARARAN.

PERO NO ME *PREGUN-TARON* NADA.

ES COMO SI LO HUBIERAN HECHO SOLO PARA *JODERME*.

ASÍ ES, MÁS O MENOS, SÍP. PHILIP--EL GOBERNADOR, ***COMO SE LLAME.*** HA PERDIDO EL CONTROL POCO A POCO DESDE ***HACE TIEMPO.***

HE OÍDO HABLAR DE LAS MIERDAS QUE HA ESTADO HACIENDO, CUCHICHEOS, RUMORES... NO QUERÍA CREER QUE FUERA CIERTO.

ELIGES ***IGNORAR*** ESAS COSAS-- TE EVITA TENER QUE ***HACER*** ALGO.

DESPUÉS DE VERTE-- SOSPECHÉ QUE EL "*ACCIDENTE*" EN EL QUE PERDISTE LA MANO ESTABA RELACIONADO CON ÉL.

ME PIDIÓ QUE SUSTITUYERA A SUS GUARDIAS--QUE VIGILARA EL GARAJE EN EL QUE RETENÍA A GLENN. NO SABÍA QUE TENÍA ***PRISIONEROS*** AQUÍ.

YO TRABAJO PRINCIPALMENTE EN SEGURIDAD-- PASO TODO EL TIEMPO EN LAS ***VALLAS.***

NO PODÍA DEJAR QUE CONTINUARA--TENÍA QUE AYUDAR A PONER FIN A ESTA LOCURA.

SEGUIMOS SIENDO ***HUMANOS, JODER.***

MI ***MALDITA ROPA.*** LLEVÁBAMOS ***TRAJES ANTIDISTURBIOS*** Y CUANDO EL DOCTOR ME ESTABA ATENDIENDO, ALGUIEN ***TUVO*** QUE VER MI MONO DE PRISIÓN.

DIOS.

¿QUÉ QUIERES DECIR?

ASÍ ES COMO SUPO LO DE LA PRISIÓN.

¿CÓMO HE PODIDO SER TAN ***TONTO?***

VAMOS-- ***TENEMOS*** QUE LARGARNOS DE AQUÍ.

¡TENGO QUE ATRAPAR OTROS *MORDEDORES* PARA LAS *PELEAS*! ¡TENGO QUE ENCONTRAR OTROS *LUCHADORES* PARA LAS *PELEAS*--! ¡JODER!

¡JODER!

¡¡ESA MALDITA ZORRA!!

¡JODER!

¡JODER!

CLANGG!!

¡¡ABRID!!

¡QUIERO VER SUS *JODIDAS TRIPAS* ESPARCIDAS POR TODO EL SUELO!

¡JODER!

¡ALTO!

CERRAD.

CLARO, JEFE... PERO, ¿POR QUÉ?

VOY A--

VOY A CONSULTARLO CON LA ALMOHADA. NO QUIERO HACER NADA DE LO QUE LUEGO *ME ARREPIENTA.*

TENGO QUE VERLO DESDE TODOS LOS ÁNGULOS. VOLVERÉ DENTRO DE UNAS HORAS.

¡ESPE-RAD!
¡POR FAVOR, PARAD!
¿QUÉ PASA, ALICE?
¿QUÉ QUIERES?
LO HE PENSADO--Y, SI TÚ TE VAS, QUIERO QUE NOS LLEVÉIS *CON* VOSOTROS. AL DOCTOR STEVENS Y A MÍ.
DONDE QUIERA QUE VIVÁIS, *TIENE* QUE SER MEJOR QUE *ESTO*... Y ESTANDO TU MUJER EMBARAZADA, SEGURO QUE OS PODRÍAMOS SER *ÚTILES*.
NO TE LO DISCUTIRÉ. NOS ENCANTARÍA QUE VINIERAIS.
HAY QUE *IRSE* YA.
SI QUEREMOS LARGARNOS DE AQUÍ SIN PROBLEMAS-- TENEMOS QUE *DARNOS* PRISA.
GLENN, ¿SABES DÓNDE ESTÁ MICHONNE?

ESTÁ POR *AQUÍ*-- CREO. CUANDO ME ARRASTRARON POR AQUÍ, NO ME HICE UNA BUENA IDEA DE ESTE SITIO.

ESTOY BASTANTE SEGURO DE QUE EL SITIO EN EL QUE LA TENÍAN ESTABA POR AQUÍ.

ASÍ ES-- ESTÁ A LA VUELTA DE LA ESQUINA.

BIEN, LA SACAMOS-- BUSCAMOS AL DOCTOR Y *NOS VAMOS.*

¿QUÉ DISTANCIA HAY HASTA LA CASA DEL DOCTOR Y LUEGO HASTA LA VALLA? ¿HAY UNA FORMA FÁCIL DE ESCAPAR?

ALTO.

ME EXTRAÑARÍA MUCHO QUE EL GOBERNADOR *NO* HUBIERA COLOCADO UN GUARDIA DONDE TIENE A VUESTRA AMIGA. CORRER HASTA ALLÍ NO ES LA MEJOR DE LAS IDEAS.

A NO SER QUE QUERÁIS QUE OS PEGUEN *UN TIRO.*

¿Y QUÉ SUGIERES?

AQUÍ TODO EL MUNDO ME CONOCE. YO CONTINUARÉ-- OS LLAMARÉ CUANDO TERMINE.

ESPERAD AQUÍ.

HOLA, SOY *GLENN.*

ALICE. MUCHO GUSTO.

HOLA--¿QUÉ PASA, GABE? ¿TE TIENE PROTEGIENDO LA *RESERVA DE ORO* O ALGO ASÍ?

HEH, NO ***EXACTAMENTE.*** LA ZORRA QUE JODIÓ LAS PELEAS ESTÁ AQUÍ DENTRO. ES UNA ***CABRONA.*** EL JEFE NO QUIERE CORRER ***NINGÚN*** RIESGO.

¿CREES QUE PODRÍA ECHAR UN VISTAZO? SOLO UNA OJEADA. NO PUDE VERLA BIEN EN LA PELEA. PARECÍA ***ATRACTIVA.***

OH, SÍ--***ESTABA*** BUENA. SIN EMBARGO, DESPUÉS DE LA PALIZA QUE LE DIO EL GOBERNADOR, ELLA--

¡HUKK!

THRAKK!

=*¡GAKK!*=

=*¡HUKK!*=

WROKK!

¡TODO DESPE-JADO!

AYUDADME A ABRIR ESTA PUERTA--ESTÁ TODA *ABOLLADA*-- NO *SE ABRE.*

=¡UNGH!=

OH, DIOS-- ¡¿ESTÁS--?!

=¡STUP!=

ALTO, MICHONNE. ESPERA. SOY *YO.*

SOY *RICK.*

¿RICK?

TÍOS-- ¡AYUDADME A DESA-TARLA!

SÍ-- DIOS-- VALE.

¿ESTÁS BIEN?

NO.

NI POR ASOMO.

¿NECE-SITAS--?

NO. YA ESTÁ.

LAR-GUÉMONOS DE UNA *PUTA VEZ* DE AQUÍ.

¡PARAD!

VIENE ALGUIEN.

YO ME ENCARGO. NADIE SABE AÚN LO QUE ESTOY *HACIENDO.*

EVITARÉ QUE OS VEAN.

¿MARTÍNEZ? ¿QUÉ *ESTÁS* HACIENDO AQUÍ?

AH, DOC--ÍBAMOS A BUSCARTE. NOS MARCHAMOS DE AQUÍ--DEL PUEBLO. QUEREMOS QUE VENGAS CON NOSOTROS.

¿QUÉ? ¿QUIÉNES SON "*NOSO-TROS?*"

HOLA, DOC.

¿QUÉ ME DICES? ¿ESTÁS CON NOSOTROS O *NO?*

SOLO TENGO QUE RECOGER ALGUNOS SUMINISTROS DE LA ENFERMERÍA Y LUEGO PODREMOS IRNOS.

SERÁ UN MOMENTO.

¿CUÁL ES LA FORMA MÁS RÁPIDA DE SALIR DE AQUÍ?

POR AQUÍ.

VOSOTROS SEGUIDME-- NOS SACARÉ DE AQUÍ.

CUANTO **MENOS** ESTEMOS ASÍ A PLENA VISTA--***MEJOR***. TAN SOLO TENEMOS QUE LLEGAR A UN CALLEJÓN--SALTAR POR ENCIMA DE UNA DE ESAS VALLAS. NO ESTÁN TAN BIEN VIGILADAS COMO LAS DE LA PUERTA PRINCIPAL.

NO ***DEBERÍA*** SER COMPLICADO.

¡DOCTOR!

¡DOCTOR STEVENS!

OH, HOLA, SEÑORA WILLIAMS.

UM... ¿EN QUÉ PUEDO AYUDARLE?

SIENTO MOLESTARLE ASÍ, PERO MI HIJO MATTHEW TIENE UN POCO DE ***FIEBRE.*** ESTOY SEGURA DE QUE NO ES NADA, PERO NO ME QUIERO ARRIESGAR.

¿TIENE ALGO DE TIEMPO LUEGO?

POR SUPUESTO. YO--YO SOLO...

TRÁIGALO A MI CONSULTA MÁS TARDE. SI PUEDE--

LE VERÉ ***LUEGO.*** ME--ME ASEGURARÉ DE HACERLE UN HUECO.

CLARO, YO-- ¿ESTÁ BIEN, DOCTOR STEVENS?

PARECE ALTERADO.

ESTOY ***BIEN--EN SERIO.*** ES QUE-- ESTOY EN MITAD DE ALGO AHORA MISMO.

NO QUIERO SER MALEDUCADO, PERO ***TENGO*** QUE IRME.

LO ***SIENTO.***

DOCTOR--¿EL HIJO DE ESA MUJER...?

NO PUEDO PENSAR EN ESO EN ESTE MOMENTO, ALICE. ES DEMASIADO-- NO PUEDO.

TENEMOS QUE SALIR DE AQUÍ--PUEDE QUE NO TENGAMOS OTRA OPORTUNIDAD. ESTAS PERSONAS-- SE LAS TENDRÁN QUE ARREGLAR *SIN* NOSOTROS.

TIENES RAZÓN. YA LO SÉ.

DEJA DE MIRARME ASÍ--NO TE PREOCUPES POR MÍ.

VALE-- DISCULPA.

VALE-- ESPERAD AQUÍ UN MOMENTO.

AHORA VUELVO.

EH--OYE, CHAVAL. VENGO A RELEVARTE.

DAME ESE RIFLE Y VETE. ME ENCARGARÉ DEL RESTO DE TU TURNO.

CLARO, TÍO-- COMO QUIERAS. PERO, AH... ¿POR QUÉ HACES ESTO?

¿ME NECESITAS EN ALGUNA OTRA PARTE O ALGO ASÍ?

NO HAGAS PREGUNTAS. TE ESTOY HACIENDO UN FAVOR. ENTRÉGAME EL ARMA, AGRADÉCEMELO--Y DISFRUTA DE TU TIEMPO LIBRE.

AH... CLARO.

COMO QUIERAS, TÍO-- GRACIAS.

VENGA--SI SALTAMOS ESTE MURO, ESTAREMOS FUERA DE PELIGRO. ESTO HA SALIDO MEJOR DE LO QUE PENSABA--PERO AÚN TENEMOS QUE DARNOS PRISA. PODRÍA APARECER UNO DE LOS MATONES DEL GOBERNADOR EN CUALQUIER MOMENTO.

CLARO, CLARO. ¿CREES QUE NO TENEMOS PRISA EN LARGARNOS DE AQUÍ?

YO AÚN NO ME MARCHO.

¡¿QUÉ?!

VOY A HACERLE UNA VISITA AL GOBERNADOR. ME REUNIRÉ CON VOSOTROS O NO. PERO NO PUEDO IRME SIN HACER ESTO.

¿DÓNDE VIVE?

A DOS EDIFICIOS DE ESTE CALLEJÓN. SEGUNDA PLANTA, PRIMERA PUERTA A MANO IZQUIERDA.

NO ME PUEDO CREER QUE NOS HAYA *DEJADO* ASÍ SIN MÁS. O SEA-- ¿DEBERÍAMOS *AYUDARLA?* A MÍ *TAMPOCO* ME GUSTABA ESE TIPO.

CRÉEME, GLENN-- SOLO *LA RETRASARÍAMOS.* LO MÁS SEGURO ES SALIR *AHORA* MIENTRAS PODAMOS.

MICHONNE SABE CUIDARSE SOLA... Y ME DA LA SENSACIÓN DE QUE ESTO ES ALGO QUE QUERRÁ HACER *SOLA.*

ESO ES-- VAS BIEN. CASI ESTÁ.

VIGILA DONDE PONES LAS MANOS.

ALLÁ VOY--ESTAD LISTOS PARA COGERME POR SI ACASO.

ESTO NO VA A SER *FÁCIL*--¿ME *TENÉIS,* TÍOS?

TE TENEMOS, RICK--BAJA TRANQUILO.

OOOH--QUE NO SE OS *CAIGA.* TENED CUIDADO.

ES INCREÍBLE QUE HAYAMOS SALIDO DE ALLÍ TAN FÁCILMENTE. ES DECIR--LOS MUROS NO ESTÁN HECHOS PARA MANTENER A LA GENTE *DENTRO...* PERO...

ESTOY TAN *ALIVIADO.*

¡GRAUGHH!

¡¡YEAAAGGH!!

¡DOCTOR STEVENS!

¡GMMPH!

¿QUÉ-- QUÉ PASA?

¿ES UNO DE ELLOS?

¿DE LOS MORDEDO-RES?

¡DAME ESO!

¡EH!

PKOW!

NO PASA NADA...

ESTÁ *BIEN*, ALICE...

NO ME *MUERO*... PIÉNSALO... *CIENTÍFICAMENTE*... SOLO ME ESTOY...

CONVIRTIENDO... EN UNA FORMA DE VIDA DIFERENTE-- *PEOR*. SEGUIRÉ EXISTIENDO... DE *ALGUNA* FORMA.

COGE LOS SUMINISTROS... LOS NECESITARÁS PARA CUIDAR DE ESTA GENTE.

USA LO QUE TE HE ENSEÑADO.

VETE.

TENEMOS QUE *MOVERNOS*. LA GENTE DEL PUEBLO CREERÁ QUE LOS TIROS ERAN DEL GUARDIA CARGÁNDOSE MORDEDORES QUE SE ACERCARON A LA VALLA.

PERO EL SONIDO ATRAERÁ A LOS MORDEDORES EN LAS INMEDIACIONES-- HAY QUE *IRSE* ANTES DE QUE LLEGUEN AQUÍ.

YO--ÉL ERA UN BUEN AMIGO. *TAMBIÉN* LE ECHARÉ DE MENOS.

JODER, CIELO-- *CÓMETELO.* NO ESTÁ *COMPLETAMENTE FRESCO,* PERO TE JURO QUE ESTA COSA *CAMINABA* HACE MENOS DE DOS HORAS.

NO ESTÁ *TAN* MALO Y SOLO SE PONDRÁ *PEOR.* TIENES QUE COMÉRTELO *AHORA.*

VENGA...

KROOM!!

KROOM!!

¡¿QUÉ COJONES *QUIERES?!*

¡Y NO DES GOLPES TAN *FUERTES* EN MI *JODIDA* PUERTA!

KROOM!

BUENO...

ESTO SERÁ INTERESANTE.

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: **WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM**

Hey readers! Amanda here, back for issue #32 – Escape from Woodbury. We're pretty much running from start to finish during this issue and danger seems to be lurking around every corner, so I promise not to keep you all too long. Some big things for the future of our group are slowly getting set up over these next few issues, but I'll say nothing further! You'll just have to stick around. We may be in a new year but are keeping things classic with some old letter hacks from 2006 below. How time flies.

Issue 32 is here, people! The zombie movie that never ends just keeps on not ending and I, for one, couldn't be happier.

Charlie and Cliff have really outdone themselves on this issue. Just when you think these two couldn't do a better job they just come out and blow you away! Nice job, guys.

If you haven't pre-ordered your Walking Dead busts from your local comic shop or from csmoorestudio.com please do so NOW--you will NOT be disappointed. Scultor-supreme did an AMAZING job on these and you don't want to miss them.

Now let's answer some damn letters!

Dear Bob,

First off I absolutely love this comic, I just started reading them a little less than a month ago and I'm hooked. I find myself yearning for the next one to come out. Now with the questions and comments.

1. I was relieved when Rick had gotten his bad hand chopped off, because other wise he would be kinda useless for a while.

Yeah, and now we don't have to make sure he doesn't USE that hand by accident...

2. In issue №28 when the Govenor was watching the zombies eating the corpses was that a zombie cheerleader at the far right corner of the room.

Could be.

3. If Lori had a miscarriage would the baby become a zombie baby and A) Eat her from the inside out or B) Will she give birth to a zombie baby that would attack Hershel upon delivery.

Possibly BOTH! You never know.

Keep up the good work!!
Matt M.

P.S. Please print my letter!!

Will do!

Mr. Kirkman,

I just finished reading Walking Dead 29. I've previously read the rest of the series, except 28 which I missed. Until now I've enjoyed the series, at least in as much as one can enjoy a series full of heartbreak and misery.

Sadly, I think you've made a huge misstep with this last issue. It isn't gory or sad or heartbreaking. It is vile. It is virtually a celebration of cruelty. It was difficult for me to get through the whole issue.

Before you dismiss this as just another silly moralistic diatribe, let me tell you about myself. I'm your standard thirty-something Canadian atheist at the liberal end of the liberal spectrum. You won't find a more vociferous defender of freedom of expression. I guess what worries me is that if a work doesn't have any meaning or message (which this issue clearly does not), then all that's left is it's value as entertainment. It makes me cringe to think that the material you present in this issue might be anyone's idea of entertainment.

Why am I bothering to write this? I guess I was fairly shocked (I just finished reading it). I made reconsider reading anything you write, although I'll still be picking up Invincible and I'll give Ant-man a shot. Anyway, I know that if I was writing something I'd want to know when I'd made an impact on someone either way, so there you go. For the sake of your remaining readers (you won't count me among them), I hope you can right the ship on future issues.

Sincerely,
Alan Brown

This is a harsh world and harsh things are going to happen to the characters. If you can't handle what happened to Michonne, it's a good thing you're getting off the crazy ride now because I'm sure there are worse things ahead.

Robert,

I was never into comics even as a kid--never followed a monthly book--never really gave a rat's fanny about them until a friend introduced me to Gaiman's Sandman, which got me interested in the art form, but I still never bought a monthly book. Never really cared about zombies, either. They just didn't interest me.

Considering, then, my apathy toward both comics and zombies, the fact that I am now a slavering Walking Dead addict who buys the monthly books speaks volumes for your talents and those of Messrs. Adlard and Rathburn. That really ought to make you proud.

Now on to the questions.

You've mentioned in previous Letter Hacks columns that you have no plans to reveal the origin of the zombie plague, which is, I think, a good move--but as time goes by, are we going to learn more about them? Thus far, we know that the zombies are a) dead; b) ravenous; c) retain no memory of their prior lives, nor any brain functions beyond "eat" and "chase"; d) divided into two categories--roamers and lurkers, and e) die when their brains are bashed in. I could stand to learn more. Seems to me that if Rick & Co. have the chance to learn more information about them, it's another good device to keep people hooked and buying.

We'll certainly learn more about them--but I'd like to point out that we know even LESS than you state here. I mean, just because our characters have started to refer to them as roamers and lurkers that doesn't mean that there actually are two categories or that there are ONLY two categories. The characters don't have all the answers--they could be wrong about a LOT of things.

Bear in mind that I'm not telling you how to do your job, or suggesting improvements. It's pretty obvious the series doesn't need any, or I wouldn't keep buying the books. Basically, this is just me saying, "I'd like to learn more about the zombies."

Tell me more about the zombies, dammit!

Your devoted fan,
Jim Palmer

P.S. Comics aside, you're a pretty fine writer. The aforementioned Gaiman seems to have transitioned from comics to novels (he should go back to comics)--any plans to do any noncomic writing?

If there is ever a Walking Dead spin-off with other characters in another part of the country... I plan for that to be a novel series... but I have to learn how to write novels first. So it will probably never happen.

Letter Hacks,

Your work is top of the game, thank you. I can't wait 'til the governor gets axe to the head or torn up by zombies. Charlie, I just bought some of your art over on splashpageart.com after hearing about that in the lettercols. I definitely read the lettercols! Keep 'em goin' if you can, especially with letters like that AK-47 expert... telll us more dude! So how did Charlie draw such a good AK-47... and does Charlie live in England or something... how do you get your scripts to him?

Carrier pigeon, usually. They've got these kick-ass bank tube things that will get stuff over there--but I can't afford those.

What made you choose Moby Dick as the book that woman was reading? I try and balance my pop reading with classics and just started that one like 2 weeks ago. It's frickin hilarious... well okay it is quite funny if you get past the extremely detailed descriptions... I can see how that sucker would be good for illustration. Any favorite classics of yours, Kirkman? TWD is classic, dude. You've got all these characters to handle and I admire that you take the panels to develop them. You've got the long view in mind and yet each issue and story- arc is great in itself.

What's the next con you'll be at? Do you want to expand your readership? I'm thinking elementary school book fairs. Ok maybe not. I'm certainly doing my best. I can't get my wife to read them but I retell each Walking Dead issue to her and she loves it. So thanks for making me sound like a good storyteller. And Charlie, as soon as I get a coffee table, the big hardback edition is going there so everyone can see your rockin' art. You both have really taken the medium to a higher level, so thanks again for your sweat and tears.

Brian Hans

I hope your wife isn't just humoring you. If she really liked it, the lazy broad would READ the things on her own.

As far as cons go. In light of that last comment, I really don't want to appear in any public places where you could find me. That and the fact that I have a small child at home that I really don't enjoy being away from. I'm trying to sit out 2007 completely. But once the boy is old enough, the wife and I will be wanting to take him all over the place--so I'm sure I'll be back on the convention circuit before too long. That is, If I'm still even remotely possible in a year or so.

Dear Kirk-Man:

Big fan of the book. Normally, I am not a big horror genre guy, but TWD is entertaining and original enough to keep me interested month in and month out. Keep up the good work, and I will keep buying it.

Now that the little bit of ass-kissery is out of the way, the main question I have for you is this: Since Bendis seems to love to throw your name in his books, any temptation to do the same in here? Perhaps have one of the survivors rooting through a medical kit and find a tube of Bendis-Brand Hemmrhoidal Cream? Or maybe they sit back and enjoy a nice 40oz bottle of Brubaker Malt Liquor? Who else would you throw in there?

As much as I love seeing my name plastered all through POWERS it REALLY pulls me out of the story when they need to get over to the corner of "Ellis and Brubaker" street or when they meet up with "Detective Joe Quesada EIC of Marvel Comics." I know most of the guys he does at this point and it's distracting to read such specific names all the time. That said, Axel is named after Marvel Editor Axel Alonso--but you'd never know that if I didn't TELL you. So THEY know but it doesn't pull YOU out of the story.

That's how I prefer to do things. Bendis is a hack.

Anyways, thanks for reading this email. Missed you at Wizard World Chicago, maybe next year?

Peace,
Andy Jonathan.

2008 would be the soonest you'll see me at Chicago again.

Dear Robert,

I'm still fairly new to the book, and there are a lot of characters to keep track of: you mind killing some of them off? Rick, I got. And Michonne...Carol is blonde, right? I think I wrote a mail recently asking you some questions, but it might not have gone through. One question was basically: What does God think about the whole alien/ zombie take-over of Earth? I mean he kind of let it happen, right?

God is make believe in the world of The Walking Dead.

How come none of the characters at the prison ever pray?

I'm sure Hershel does... maybe more. I just haven't shown that yet... or, actually... I seem to recall showing Hershel pray at LEAST once.

Another question: How much does it take to kill one of the zombies? Or are they even killable? They're kind of dead already too, right? And with so many dead zombies around how come there's no smell?

There's a smell, but I imagine you'd get used to it after a while. Kill the brain and you kill the zombie.

3) Why are you wrapping up Marvel Team-up? Hopefully to go on to do bigger and better (Captain America) things (again), right?

I'm wrapping up Marvel Team-Up because it's a hard (but fun) book to write and I'd like to move on to other things. It was going to continue, they were actually talking to a big name creator about coming on with 25 at one point--which would have been cool, but sales were so low they decided to end it.

Your mailing address says Lexington, Kentucky? You don't really live there, do you?

I live CLOSE to Lexington. I need to change that P.O. Box...

How come there are no flashbacks in TWD? To b4 the plague--is it considered a plague?--I mean. I think it would be fun.

This isn't LOST--and there's not anything important I've had to show. Issue 7 started with a flashback. Haven't NEEDED to do it since then.

And, finally, I think any good writer or editor would tell you ya got way too many heroes in the book, especially for it being

black and white! They mentioned watching a movie in №30; what kinda movies we talkin' about? Recent? How long ago Was the plague anyway?? Maybe Rick and company oughtta just find a tank and go looking for people, huh? Who was the black guy who came back to the prison at the end of №30? I didn't recognize him!! I thought only Rick, Michonne and the meak looking guy went after the helicopter! Nobody called him by name, either: THAT was a BIG help!

It was Tyreese--did I really not say his name? Crud. I do that way too often. Sorry it's hard to follow all the characters. I'll see what I can do about killing some of them off.

I am liking me some Walking Dead though; but I still say Invincible will probably outlast this series in the long run, although both will have pretty healthy runs. How about "Dead End" for a new letters column title, just off the top of my head? How about a riot at the prison? Why am I asking so many questions? What IS Funk-O-Tron, anyway??....

Sincerely
Andrew J. Shaw

Thanks for writing!

Mr. Kirkman,

First, I would like to say that I am a fan of your work (Invincible is the best superhero comic in the universe). However, issue №29 of The Walking Dead is making my fandom a bit shaky.

As a man of African descent, I was quite disturbed and appalled by the image of a strong, powerful black woman stripped of her power and humanity by being raped and brutally beaten by a white man not once, but twice in the same issue.

I must say that I am way past tired of this sick, pathological white man's portrayal of black women as some kind of chocolate rape fantasy in film (Pam Grier and Halle Berry anyone?) and specifically in comics. I've already had enough of this shit with Storm. Courtesy of Chris Claremont, she left Africa at the behest of a white man, never looked back and has since been a stripped-down, scantily-clad, placed-in-bondage sex toy for the Hellfire Club and Loki. She's also been stroke-off fodder for horny white male readers who dared cry foul when some spear chucker in Wakanda married her and thus stole their ebony S&M fantasy away from them.

I can't be held responsible for how black women have been treated in comics in general. This is a harsh world and harsh things happen to ALL the people in this book. I'm sorry it was the black woman who got raped but I'm ONLY interested in "could or would that happen in such a situation" and if the answer is yes, I don't feel like I did anything wrong.

But I digress. The matter at hand here is The Walking Dead №29.

I understand the idea of dramatic effect in storytelling, but goddamn it, did Michonne have to be tied up spread eagle, raped and tortured? Did a strong black woman have to be broken down to the lowest of the low? Is it a case of art imitating life in the sense that if black people are too strong they not only have to be stopped but destroyed? Would you have put any of the white female characters in the book through the same ordeal? I don't think you would have. You never see strong white female characters in comics being dehumanized like that. I guarantee that Michonne's fate will not be shared by Supergirl, Power Girl and certainly not Wonder Woman.

I assure you this was not an effort to "destroy" a strong black female.

I know that the comic book industry is an ivory tower that is and always has been ruled by white men of varying ages, sensibilities and prejudices. And those prejudices have often shown themselves in the stereotypical and racist depictions of people of color, specifically African people, and, case in point, African women. I'm not letting Chris Claremont off the hook for writing storm as some exotic sex slave. I'm not letting racist-ass Robert Crumb off the hook for Angelfood McSpade. And, I'm not letting you off the hook for your need to portray yet another black woman rape fantasy in The Walking Dead. Whether you did this unconsciously, subconsciously or very consciously I don't know, but you did it and my conscience won't allow me to sit still and not address this. Some people don't know how to call shit when shit needs to be called, but I'm calling you on this, Mr. Kirkman.

You're more than entitled to be pissed off and to tell me your pissed off. But when a white male is raped, I hope you're just as upset. And when a white woman has something bad happen to her... and when anything generally rotten happens to any character in this book... I expect an email.

I'll spare you a lengthy diatribe about how the rape of African women by white men was part of the dehumanization process during slavery,

but I will say that I know several African American readers of The Walking Dead and they too have expressed their disgust at the portrayal of a black woman getting raped by a white man. Some have told me that they're not going to read the book anymore. The black female readers that I know have especially expressed their disgust. Even though we all know that Michonne is going to get some medieval-on-your-ass payback on that no-good, Dick Dastardly-looking cracker, it won't begin to make up for her humanity being robbed like that. The image of Michonne's bloody, swollen face is still difficult for me to look at. And I don't want to hear any of that "but the rape was off panel" shit either.

It was SUPPOSED to be difficult for you to look at. It was supposed to make you upset. You're supposed to care about these characters enough to be pissed off when bad things happen to them.

But listen, if I was portraying The Governor as anything but an evil psychotic freak--if he had even the smallest hint of "this is an okay guy" that would be completely racist of me... and I would expect to be "called out." But I had a horrible character do a horrible thing to show how horrible he was.

And it was Michonne because she's a character readers wouldn't expect to die--the danger is more real for her. Rick has survived enough that readers think he might be safe. Also, in the scene that led to her rape--Rick's hand was cut off, Michonne attacked Governor, causing him to retaliate.

I couldn't cut Michonne's hand off--and have Rick attack Gov, and then get raped, simply because a side character getting a hand cut off ISN'T a big deal. It had to be RICK. So then the options for a character attacking are Michonne and Glenn--it seemed more in-character to me for Michonne to attack instead of Glenn. I wanted to kind of have Glenn freaking out--this is the first time he's really been around some shit like this. Sure, he crept around zombies to gather supplies but he'd never seen someone whack off someone else's hand--that would STILL be traumatic.

I'm just saying, there's a logical reason for everything... and it's NOT racial in motivation.

Mr. Kirkman, I met you and took a photo with you at the 2006 San Diego Comic Con and you seem like a really cool guy. I don't want to believe that you're a racist, but I really don't think that you understand the gravity of the images you have portrayed, especially to your African American fans, particularly your female ones. You're one of my favorite writers in the business. I love Invincible and it was that love that made me want to read The Walking Dead in the first place, but I don't know if I can read it anymore after this. It's a damn shame because like I said, I am a fan. At least I think I still am.

Militantly yours,
Sundjata Abubakari

What would you prefer? Do you REALLY want every African- American character to be SAFE because I don't want to look like a racist? Do you want to read a book like that? A book where characters you relate to have no danger--no suspense because you know I can't hurt them for fear of a backlash?

That's not the kind of book I want to write.

NOBODY is safe in this book. NOBODY. If I kill a Jewish person am I going to hear from Jewish people? Martinez is the first Hispanic character in the book. Does he have to be safe so that race remains represented? I can't think like that, or the stories will suffer.

Please cut me some slack here.

Hi Robert,

I have a few thoughts about WD.

In WD №29, why haven't the zombie heads in the box chewed up Rick's hand, which was in there with them?

Maybe they were--we didn't show inside the box. Or maybe they were stacked with their mouths AWAY from the head.

A nasty thought: if Lori's baby died in utero, would it turn zombie and chew her up?

It's possible.

What is the status of wildlife and animals in general? Are they all being chewed up like the deer we saw early on, or are some of them managing to coexist, or even *benefit* from the presence of zombies in their ecosystems (ie: ravens, rats)?

I'm sure it's a little bit of everything. I don't assume much of the wildlife is affected now that there are essentially REALLY SLOW humans without guns running around out there. I would think most wildlife would be better off in this situation.

I really hope the narrative trajectory might turn to the comparison of good and bad

leadership (ala "Watership Down" and "Platoon") as I do think Rick has the potential to be a truly great, really heroic and visionary leader, and this travails could well make him an even better one! The loss of this right hand *is* seriously disabling (I had a busted hand a few years ago and that made life difficult enough), but maybe it will help him to use his heart and his intellect to make consistently better decisions.

Keep it coming!

Best wishes,
Ian C. Thomas

Yeah, Rick is definitely going to have some hard times ahead of him.

Ya Know..
10 years ago, when I was 16 I stopped buying comics. Completely Cold Turkey. Before that I was spending $150-200 a month on comics. So I quit. Moved on to other things and whatnot.

Worst mistake of your life... probably.

Then one day I see The Walking Dead. I Love Zombies. Always Have. My favorite movie ever is the original Night of the Living Dead. I used to love comics. So I took a chance and bought it.

No. You gave me back the art of READING a comic. Enjoying it from beginning to end and waiting so patiently yet eagerly for the next issue regardless of when it gets released.

Each time I see a new issue I tense up. I Gasp! I'm excited and can't wait to get home and read it. Even if it only lasts me 15 minutes, the wait is worth it.

Yes, your team is THAT good.

I just wanted to tell you that.

I only need to say thank you once. Thank You!

-Derek Burns

You know--if you want it to last LONGER than 15 minutes... you could read the letters columns. But you'll probably never read THIS... so there's really nothing I can do for you.

Mr. Kirkman,
Good evening. So, I see a lot of letters from "Zombie fans" who love your book, which is the obvious result of reading a story on a topic you like, but not many from people like me who really never got into the whole "Zombie" thing. Don't get me wrong, it's not the "idea" I don't like but I think more the comedy that's usually associated. I was relieved to read that you will be keeping this title "dead serious."

I've gotten plenty of letters that start with "I don't like zombies--but I read this book" SO THERE!

Ya so, I never was into the Zombie thing really, and when the owner of my comic shop of choice (Mike from Main Street Comics in Jersey) told me I had to read it I was sure it was going to be something I read and then passed on. Wow, was I wrong. This is now at the top of my read list and I have Mike and you to thank for it! Well more you, but Mike played a role at least. :) What has worked for me is that this book has stayed away from the "hilarity" of the zombie animals and the aptly dressed cheerleader and athlete zombies. Not that I don't find them funny, but I am much more likely to be in for the long haul on a book that makes me think and analyze rather than giggle and move on. So thank you much for such a great book and for allowing me to finally appreciate a good "zombie tale."

I prefer serious zombie stories myself.

Also, because you print the majority of letters that contain criticism, a new reader might get the idea that this book isn't living up to its hype. With rave reviews, shout-outs on G4's Attack of the Show, and a generally positive word of mouth, one might think you've slipped. In my opinion, that couldn't be further from the truth. The book is AWESOME! Not just a good read, but one of the best I have read in my 15 years of comic book reading. The story has moved along just perfect so please ignore the "not enough zombie" stuff. A good story is one that not only entertains but captivates.

Yeah, I've had people ask if the book is still doing well because I print all the negative mail. I mean, for every negative letter I print there's like five that just say "hey--love the book." I can't print THOSE in a letters column. How do I respond to the same thing 20 times? The negative mail is much more fun to respond to and it's more fun to read.

I love the cliffhanger endings and detailed story lines. This book, like very few others, (Girls by the Luna Brothers, Y the Last Man by BKV are good examples) tells a story

that we become captivated with the more we learn about it. This genre has been done time and time again and yet we are still surprised when you reveal your latest plot twist, zombie related or not. That's hard to do with today's "over saturation of information," so kudos are due indeed.

And what's a letter without numbered questions I ask?

1. Why is it that the interior art is black and white? Its great and all, just curious. Is the cost to color that much of a factor?

Actually, I think because of the cover stock we use and paper quality it costs MORE per issue to print than Invincible. I could make this book color and change the paper quality and SAVE money.

2. When do we get to find out how the whole Zombie thing started? (Not rushing you just needed a number 2)

Your loyal reader,
-Dan Murray

NEVER. Sorry.

Dear Mr.Kirkman

I'd like to start by saying you and the whole team (Adlard, Rathburn and Wooton) are doing an AWESOME job! And the suspense in Issue 30, first making us wonder if the figure we saw running to the prison was actually Glenn was bad enough but saving the governor's response to Rick in the end of issue 29 till the last page, pure evil! And now for some questions!

1) Why hasn't natural Decomposition of the zombies set in? There is a Beautiful back cover on issue 28 wher a zombie girl appears to have maggots on one of her shoulders (My favorite back cover so far actually) and it got me thinking, why haven't we seen hordes of carrion feeders preying on the undead? Vultures, Maggots, Rats, and Ants, those kind of things?

We've seen a little of that. They're there.

2) Since finding the prison it doesn't seem like the main characters have had much of an interest in finding other people, which I thought would be one of their top priorities. Doesn't it make sense that by now they would have at least tried to secure a CB radio?

They've been busy.

3) When can we expect the return of Rick's zombie hand? Im hoping that by issue 50 it makes its comeback leading a horde of severed limbs.

NO.

Well I think that's enough questions for one letter. And thanks again for an awesome read every month!

Sincerely,
Jeff Wiebe

Thanks--we'll keep trying to not suck.

Mr. Kirkman,

(insert first time writing to a letters page remark)

The Walking Dead is probably the best comic book in the universe and I would just like to say thanks alot for all your hard work. A few questions...

1-With all that has taken place in the world of TWD why hasn't there been any talk of God? I understand that that's not what the book is about but still if I were Rick I couldn't help but wonder. Yet, in all fairness I guess they are to busy trying to survive to worry about the afterlife.

I'll try to mention it a few more times as the book goes on. It's been mentioned before--just not very much.

2-I don't mean this in a racist sort of way, but do you think it's possible that zombies prefer certain ethnicities or races because they taste better? I mean I'm not a cannibal or anything (although when I was younger I did go through a phase in which I ate my scabs)...

GOOD LORD. WHAT?

I think I've gone too far so I'll end things here by saying, keep up the good work.

(insert please print my letter remark)
Vin Gilante

You're a nut, Vin.

That's it for this issue. See you next month!

-Robert Kirkman

NÚMERO 32

SALA DE MONTAJE

con Robert Kirkman

TWD (32) 1, 2, 3

(1) SI VAS A SACARME DE AQUÍ -- PUES EN MARCHA! "¿GUARDIAS EN LA PUERTA?"
(2) (1)(2) GLENN! "ME HE ENCARGADO."
(3) RODRÍGUEZ: "HE HECHO MUCHAS COSAS MALAS PARA SOBREVIVIR -- PERO NO SOY UN ASESINO." (ME ENVIARON A MATAR A GLENN) ME NEGUÉ.
(4) GOB CELDA DE MICH "NO, VOY A CONSULTARLO CON LA ALMOHADA. PATEA LA PUERTA. NO QUIERO HACER NADA DE LO QUE ME ARREPIENTA.
(5) ¿GOB HABLA CON LOS GUARDIAS? SE MARCHA.
(6) ALICE SALE CORRIENDO TRAS RICK, GLENN + RODRI. "LLEVADNOS CON VOSOTROS -- EL DOC + YO."
(7) VAN A POR MICHONNE GLENN HABLA ACERCA DE ELLA.
(8) MICHONNE TRATA DE ATACAR LOS VE -- LA LIBERAN... ABRAZA A RICK.
(9) LUCHAN CONTRA GUARDIAS. ↑
(10) MICHONNE (COSAS DE PÁGINA 8) ↑
(11) ALICE "VAMOS -- EL DOCTOR STEVENS VIVE CERCA."
(12) (13) DOBLE PÁGINA RICK, GLENN + MICHONNE VEN EL PUEBLO POR PRIMERA VEZ.
(14) LLEGAN A LA CASA DEL DOCTOR. (1) RICK HABLA (2) DOC SE LO PIENSA... (3) DOC: DÉJAME RECOGER MIS COSAS.
(15) ENCUENTRAN UN SOLDADO EN EL MURO (1) AMPLIO -- EL GRUPO VA CALLE ABAJO.
(16) LUCHAN CON SOLDADO. COGEN SU ARMA. SE VA.
(17) MUJER TIENE AL HIJO ENFERMO VE A DOCTOR "TRÁIGALO MÁS TARDE..."
(18) NO ME VOY CON VOSOTROS. (MICHONNE) - DOC MUERE DOC ESTÁ ALTERADO.
(19) BUSCANDO EL APARTAMENTO. HABLA CON UN TIPO BORRACHO EN LA PUERTA.
(20) ABRE LA PUERTA DE UNA PATADA VE A NIÑA ZOMBI -- ASQUEADA.
(21) PASA JUNTO A ELLA VE PECERAS... ASQUEADA... MIRA POR ENCIMA...
(22) GOB ESTO SERÁ INTERESANTE. A TODA PÁGINA. CON DETERMINACIÓN EH "TÚ"

Otro final guay para este número. Es agradable ver otro final que no sea una gran cabeza diciendo algo ingenioso. Me sigo temiendo que hice demasiadas así.

Si quisiera ser excesivamente crítico con mi trabajo (¿Es ese el propósito de esto? A veces parece que sí.) diría que hay demasiados paneles en este número de gente discutiendo sobre logística. "Ayudadme a saltar este muro." "¿Dónde está el apartamento?" "¿Es este el camino correcto al sitio donde retienen a Michonne?" Son muchas discusiones sobre lo que van a hacer. Supongo que algunas son necesarias, así que no importa. Y todo conduce a un gran momento de suspenso, por lo que funciona.

Muy bien, joven Kirkman, esta vez te lo dejaré pasar.

Esta es una trama muy densa, sobre todo en comparación con los últimos números, y me parece que la escribí de forma bastante lineal de principio a fin... y en general, el guion para el número siguió la trama muy detalladamente. Eso me hace pensar que sabía el punto final de este número y sola trataba de llegar a él de una manera interesante. Seguramente esa es la razón por la que el número va en gran parte de gente corriendo de un lugar a otro y hablando de ello... y posiblemente pensé que eso era un poco aburrido, así que el Doctor Stevens tuvo que morir.

Narrativamente, el Doctor Stevens tenía que morir porque era demasiado conveniente que Lori estuviera embarazada y que un médico en toda regla cayera del cielo. Lo entiendo. Su muerte tiene sentido. En la práctica, estoy algo decepcionado con la forma en que mi joven yo lo manejó. Tengo la sensación de que esta muerte fue una las tantas muertes sorpresas de "¡Todo va genial, menos mal!". Estoy bastante seguro de que a medida que avanzaba la serie, recurrí a eso de vez en cuando, porque cómo no hacerlo. Pero imagino que un buen número de lectores vieron venir su muerte cuando una figura en la sombra se acercó por detrás y Stevens dijo, "Estoy tan aliviado..."

Lo siento, joven Kirkman, esta crítica se mantiene.

NOTAS DE PÁGINA:

1,2: Prácticamente ningún cambio de la trama al guion.

3: Primero, tened en cuenta que no pude evitar confundir el nombre de Martínez. Creo que originalmente había planeado llamarle Rodríguez por Robert, el famoso cineasta, pero cambié de idea en algún momento. En la impresión original de este número, se llamó Rodríguez durante un número. Totalmente embarazoso. Por suerte, lo corregimos en los siguientes números y se olvidó hace mucho tiempo ¡y nadie lo sabe! Así que mientras yo no saque el tema... ¡OUCH!

Además, veréis que el plan originalmente era que enviaran a Martínez a matar a Glenn y se negara. Creí que era mejor que más gente dentro de Woodbury desconociera el verdadero alcance de lo que tramaba el Gobernador, así que nos perdimos esta parte.

4,5: Esta escena del Gobernador salió directamente de la trama.

8: Originalmente las cosas iban a ser un poco distintas. Más bien un enfrentamiento con Michonne, donde los ataca sin saber quiénes son.

9: Iban a haber más peleas con los guardias, pero al final, hice que Martínez acabara con ellos con bastante facilidad.

10: La aparición de Michonne se retrasó hasta aquí.

11: Esto se cambió para que Stevens apareciera en el pasillo como había hecho Alice... para reducir la logística.

12-13: Me encanta esta doble página del cómic. Es de locos que hayan estado en Woodbury todo este tiempo y esta sea su primera vista del pueblo. Me encanta el modo en que Charlie tenía peatones paseando en segundo plano, observándoles, pero sin hacer nada.

14-16: Esta secuencia es COMPLETAMENTE diferente. Es mucho mejor darle más espacio al lamentable momento de Stevens hablando con una madre que le necesitará después de que se haya ido. Es un instante más emocional que el que ellos se enfrentaran a otro guardia.

19: Me arrepiento de haber eliminado esta página y que no tuviéramos una aparición más importante de Bob, que tiene un papel bastante importante en la serie de novelas del Gobernador.

21: Michonne no ve las peceras, lo reservé para el próximo número.

R.OTTLEY

PORTADA
RYAN OTTLEY

"Esto te va a encantar."

DAVID FINCH

CHARLIE ADLARD

MIKE DEL MUNDO

NÚMERO 33

¡DISPONIBLE 16 DE FEBRERO, 2022!

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